<div align="center">REMARKS</div>

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the Drawings. In addition, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, as well as receipt of the certified copy of the priority document upon which Applicant's claim for foreign priority is based.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by MURAMATSU (U. S. Patent App. Pub. 2001/0010520). Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MURAMATSU in view of KOBAYASHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,390,028). Claims 4-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MURAMATSU in view of KOBAYASHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,390,028) and further in view of SASAKI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,515,698). Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of a base claim and intervening claims.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 will have been amended and new claim 17 will have been added. In particular, claim 1 will have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that the image signal is paired with the data indicating the process order. New claim 17 recites a combination of features similar to the combination of features recited in claims 2, 3 and 7. The amendments to claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 and the addition of claim 17 should not be considered an indication of Applicant's acquiescence as to the propriety of any outstanding objection or rejection. Rather, Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 5, 8 and 9 and added new claim 17 to advance prosecution and to obtain early allowance of the claims in the present application.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by MURAMATSU. The subject matter to which the claims of the current application are directed includes a process order indicated by data stored in an information recording area which is a process order in which an image signal stored in the image recording area is subjected to image correction processes. That is, the image signal is stored with an associated process order to an image recording medium. MURAMATSU is directed to gamma-compensation processing, contour adjustment processing and resolution conversion processing, on picture image data. More particularly, MURAMATSU is directed to storing computer code functions that perform the above-discussed processing. The Examiner asserts portions of MURAMATSU in Figure 1 and at paragraphs [0050], [0051] and [0055] as teaching the combination of features recited in claim 1. However, Applicant submits that the asserted portions of MURAMATSU indicate the structure of a picture image processing device and that a VRAM (video random access memory) 4 allows data, such as a processing result, to be stored. Further, paragraph [0051] indicates that a separate, picture image processing function memory component 13 stores a plurality of mathematical processing functions and separately stores an array management component 14 which manages the execution order of each mathematical processing function.

That is, Applicant submits that MURAMATSU does not teach or suggest that the image signal is paired with the data indicating the process order, as claim 1 has been amended to recite. Rather, MURAMATSU teaches that picture image data is stored in VRAM 4 and mathematical processing functions for executing picture image processing are stored in a separate recording medium, picture image processing function memory component 13. Further, MURAMATSU

teaches that array management component 14 stores an address that designates a function that is stored in the picture image processing function memory component 13, which is also separate from VRAM 4.

An objective to which the present invention is directed addresses a problem in which a first display device is changed to a second display device and an image signal is reproduced on the second display device. The image indicated by the second display device may not be represented with the same quality as it would if the image was displayed on the first display device, since the image signal has not been subjected to the same sequence of image correction processes performed by the first display device. (*See* Applicant's specification at page 1, line 20 through page 2, line 2). Insofar as MURAMATSU may store mathematical processing functions, an address designating a location of the mathematical processing functions and picture image data separately from each other, MURAMATSU does not teach or suggest that the image signal is paired with the data indicating the process order, as recited in claim 1. Moreover, MURAMATSU does not teach or suggest that mathematical processing functions are designated by an order that is specific to the picture image. Rather, MURAMATSU indicates that mathematical processing functions are designated by a single order, stored in array management component 14, that is applied to each picture image.

Further, insofar as MURAMATSU teaches an array variable 14a that stores an address that designates a function that is stored in the picture image processing function memory component 13, MURAMATSU indicates that address are specific to a particular picture image processing device and accordingly, are rendered superfluous if transferred to another display device. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that MURAMATSU does not address the objectives of the current

application. That is, MURAMATSU does not teach or suggest that the image signal is stored with an associated process order to the image recording medium, such that a second display device may obtain a processing order of image correction processes from a first display device in order to render an image signal processed on a first display device with the same quality on the second display device.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over MURAMATSU, at least for each of the reasons set forth above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over MURAMATSU in view of KOBAYASHI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,390,028). The Examiner relies upon MURAMATSU, as discussed above, with respect to the rejection of claim 1, and relies upon KOBAYASHI as teaching an image signal restoring processor configured to perform a plurality of restoration processes to the corrected image signal to restore the image signal, the plurality of restoration processes being performed in a restoring order which is a reverse of the process order, as recited in claim 2. In this regard, KOBAYASHI is directed to an apparatus that converts a picture signal obtained from a video camera into a film recording signal. The asserted portions of KOBAYASHI at column 5, line 53 to column 6, line 15 merely teach that a linearizer multiplies input converted picture data by characteristics that are the reverse of gamma correction characteristics to form a picture originally received by a video camera. KOBAYASHI does not teach or suggest a plurality of restoration processes, let alone that a plurality of restoration processes are performed in a restoring order which is the reverse of the process order.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is allowable over MURAMATSU in view of KOBAYASHI at least for each of the reasons set forth above. Further, independent claim 3 is also submitted to be allowable for reasons similar to the above-noted reasons for the allowability of claim 2 in addition to reasons related to its own recitations. Specifically, neither MURAMATSU nor KOBAYASHI teach or suggest an image signal restoring processor that performs restoration processes to the corrected image signal to restore the image signal, the restoration processes being performed in a restoring order, which is a reverse of the process order, as recited in claim 3. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that objected claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 are allowable at least because they depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 2, which Applicant has shown to be allowable. Each of objected claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 are also submitted to recite further patentable subject matter. As such, allowance of claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claim upon which they depend, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 17 is allowable over MURAMATSU and KOBAYASHI for reasons similar to the above-noted reasons for the allowability of claims 1, 2 and 3 in addition to its own recitations.

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 4-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over MURAMATSU in view of KOBAYASHI and further in view of SASAKI. Applicant respectfully

submits that claims 4-8 and 11 are allowable at least because they depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 2 and 3, which Applicant has shown to be allowable. Each of dependent claims 4-8 and 11 are also submitted to recite further patentable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner applies MURAMATSU and KOBAYASHI as discussed above with respect to claims 2 and 3, and further asserts SASAKI as teaching data indicating a process order is recorded in an information recording area of an image recording medium and an image signal is recorded in an image recording area of the image recording medium, to which claims 4-6 are directed. The discussion accompanying the asserted portion of SASAKI in Figure 14, element 209 indicates that a code which represents a compression algorithm is written to a header part 208. However, SASAKI does not indicate that header parts 201-208 are arranged in a particular order, let alone correspond to image processing functions that are carried out in a particular order. Accordingly, SASAKI does not teach or suggest that data indicating a process order is recorded in an information recording area of an image recording medium. Insofar as SASAKI does not teach a process order, SASAKI also does not teach or suggest a processing order data reading section executable to read processing order data from a first area of a storage, as recited in claim 7. Insofar as the combination of MURAMATSU, KOBAYASHI and SASAKI does not teach or suggest the combination of features recited in any of claims 4-7, the combination as asserted by the Examiner also fails to disclose (or even suggest) the combination of features recited in claims 8 and 11. As such, allowance of claims 4-8 and 11 is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for independent claim 2 upon which they depend, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under of claims 4-8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) respectfully requested.
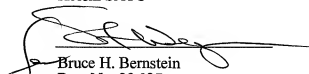
Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 17 is allowable over MURAMATSU and KOBAYASHI for reasons similar to the above-noted reasons for the allowability of claim 7 in addition to its own recitations.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the previously asserted objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of November 30, 2007 together with an indication of the allowability of claims 1-13. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

If any extension of time is deemed to be necessary to maintain the pendency of the application, including any extension of time fees for entry of an Examiner's Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby requested and authorization is hereby provided to charge any necessary fees to maintain the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Response or the current application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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